



Tennessee  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

# Farm Facts



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## Inside This Issue:

<b>Tennessee 2002 Crop Values</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Tennessee &amp; U.S. Chicken Inventory</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>U.S. Sheep</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>U.S. &amp; Canadian Cattle</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Federal Assistance for Farmers</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Beef Agribition</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Tennessee &amp; U.S. Livestock Operations</b> .....	<b>4</b>

## Tennessee 2002 Crop Values Up 7 Percent

Production value for Tennessee's principal field, fruit, and vegetable crops increased 7 percent in 2002 to \$1.11 billion. Prices increased for most of Tennessee's crops, but decreased production kept many crop values from being higher. Showing an increase in value over 2001 were corn, cotton, grain sorghum, hay, peaches, soybeans, squash, and fresh market tomatoes. Declining from the previous year were apples, cottonseed, tobacco, wheat, and fresh market snapbeans. Near record production and higher prices kept **hay** as the highest valued crop in the State at \$264 million. Completing the top five were **soybeans**, \$198 million; **cotton and cottonseed**, \$190 million; **corn**, \$169 million; and **tobacco**, \$148 million. The value of

Tennessee's fruit, nut, and vegetable crops more than doubled to \$58 million. Fresh market **tomatoes** were valued at \$43.8 million due to higher yields and prices, followed by fresh market **snapbeans**, \$8.26 million; and **squash**, \$2.14 million; commercial **peaches**, \$1.74 million; and commercial **apples**, \$1.40 million.

Tennessee's hay crop value was up 3 percent from 2001. Production and price were both down for alfalfa, but up for all other hay. Soybeans jumped from fifth in 2001 to second due mostly to a 28 percent increase in price. Cotton and cottonseed combined to show a 10 percent increase in value based on stronger prices, but still dropped to third. The corn crop saw an increase in price but a decline in yields, keeping value virtually unchanged from 2001. Tobacco dropped from third in 2001 to fifth, as quota reductions continued to take their toll. Prices were up slightly, bringing the value of the crop to \$148 million, down 15 percent.

## Crop Values: Tennessee, 2001-2002

Crop Values, Tennessee, 2001-2002					
Crop	Unit	Average Price Per Unit		Value of Production	
		2001	2002	2001	2002
		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
Apples	lb.	.235	.260	1,527	1,402
Corn for grain	bu.	2.06	2.55	168,590	169,167
Cotton	lb.	.305	.410	143,179	159,998
Cottonseed	ton	85.00	95.50	29,835	29,510
Grain Sorghum	bu.	3.88	4.80	4,693	6,666
Hay, All	ton	54.00	58.00	257,091	263,796
Alfalfa	ton	123.00	114.00	16,851	12,996
All Other	ton	52.00	57.00	240,240	250,800
Peaches	lb.	.484	.470	1,694	1,739
Soybeans	bu.	4.46	5.70	157,706	197,904
Tobacco, All	lb.	2.016	2.044	175,163	148,305
Winter Wheat	bu.	2.50	2.90	45,900	40,020
Squash	cwt.	20.70	25.10	1,058	2,136
Tomatoes, Fresh Market	cwt.	20.00	33.00	9,900	43,758
Snapbeans, Fresh Market	cwt.	30.00	35.00	8,850	8,260

**Tennessee:** Tennessee's total chicken inventory on December 1, 2002 (excluding commercial broilers) was 2.20 million birds, down 2 percent from 2001's inventory. Total layers on December 1, 2002, at 1.26 million birds, decreased 8 percent from 2001's total of 1.37 million birds. The total value of all chickens, on December 1, 2002, declined 1 percent from one year earlier to \$13.4 million. The average value per bird, at \$6.10 per head, rose 10 cents in 2002.

**U.S.:** The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2002 (excluding commercial broilers) was 439 million birds, down 1 percent from last year. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2002 was \$1.05 billion, down 2 percent from December 1, 2001. The average value decreased from \$2.42 per bird on December 1, 2001, to \$2.38 per bird on December 1, 2002.

**Poultry: Inventory and Value, Tennessee and United States, December 1, 2001 and 2002**

Species	Tennessee			United States		
	2001	2002	% Prev. Year	2001	2002	% Prev. Year
	1,000			1,000		
Chickens, excluding Broilers	2,250	2,200	98	441,509	438,948	99
Layers 1 year old & older	210	325	155	153,357	153,032	100
Layers 20 weeks old but less than 1 year old	1,155	931	81	185,271	184,181	99
Total Layers	1,365	1,256	92	338,628	337,213	100
Pullets 13 weeks old and older but less than 20 weeks	264	317	120	42,807	39,679	93
Pullets Chicks and Pullets Under 13 weeks of age	435	453	104	51,948	53,706	103
Other Chickens, excluding broilers	186	174	94	8,126	8,350	103
Value per Head <sup>1</sup>	6.00	6.10	102	2.42	2.38	98
Total Value <sup>2</sup>	13,500	13,420	99	1,068,851	1,045,222	98

<sup>1</sup> Dollars. <sup>2</sup> Thousand Dollars.

**U.S. Sheep:** All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2003, totaled 6.35 million head, down 5 percent from 2002 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.68 million head on January 1, 2003, down 5 percent from 4.91 million head on January 1, 2002. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.79 million head, were 5 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2003, totaled 1.67 million head, down 6 percent from January 1, 2002. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 29 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 2002 lamb crop of 4.36 million head was down 3 percent from 2001 and established a new record low. The 2002 lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2002, unchanged from 2001. The number of operations with sheep during 2002 totaled 64,170, down 1 percent from 2001 and 3 percent from 2000. Shorn wool production in the United States during 2002 was 41.2 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2001. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.45 million head, down 4 percent from 2001. The average price paid for wool sold in 2002 was \$0.53 per pound for a total value of \$21.8 million dollars, up 42 percent from \$15.3 million dollars in 2001.

**U.S. & Canada Cattle:** All cattle and calves in the U. S. and Canada combined totaled 109.5 million head on January 1, 2003, 1 percent below a year earlier. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 47.8 million head, were down slightly from a year ago. All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2003, totaled 96.1 million head, 1 percent below the 96.7 million on January 1, 2002 and 1 percent below the 97.3 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.1 million were down slightly from the 42.2 million on January 1, 2002 and down 1 percent from the 42.6 million two years ago. All cattle and calves in Canada as of January 1, 2003, totaled 13.4 million head, down 3 percent from the 13.8 million on January 1, 2002, and 2 percent below the 13.6 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 5.7 million, was down 1 percent from the 5.7 million on January 1, 2002, but relatively unchanged from two years ago.

## **Governor, Agriculture Commissioner Push For Federal Assistance For Farmers**

**Nashville, TN** -- Gov. Phil Bredesen joined state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens on January 27, 2003 in calling for federal assistance to farmers in 29 drought counties that did not receive assistance last year through the federal Livestock Compensation Program. "Tennessee farmers play a vital role in growing the state's economy. Making sure they have the assistance they need is a top priority for this administration," Bredesen said. "The extreme weather conditions experienced over the past couple of years has created difficult economic hardships for many of our farming families, particularly livestock producers. I want to make certain that all livestock producers who suffered production losses have access to much needed federal assistance."

In letters sent on January 27, Bredesen asked members of Tennessee's congressional delegation to support current efforts to extend the Livestock Compensation Program through the federal appropriations bill now under consideration by Congress. Livestock farmers in 29 Tennessee counties were not included in the federal Livestock Compensation Program announced by USDA last year. The program provided a direct payment to livestock farmers based on a county's drought disaster status in 2001 or 2002 and based on the number of animals certified on farms June 1, 2002. To be eligible for the program, a county must have been designated a drought disaster county in 2001, or must have received or requested disaster designation for drought before the program was announced on Sept. 19 last year.

"Drought assistance for our livestock producers in these 29 counties is especially critical right now in light of the snowy and frigid weather we're already experiencing this winter," said state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens. "Some producers are already having to use up stores of hay and increase feeding due to the deep freeze. We want to continue working with our congressional delegation, USDA, the Farm Bureau and Tennessee Cattlemen's Association. We are hopeful that there will be a congressional resolution of this situation that has unfairly left out many livestock farmers that would have otherwise qualified for assistance."

For more information contact Tom Womack, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, at (615) 837-5118.

### **The Best Time to Buy? March 7-9 at 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee Beef Agribition**

The timing of the annual Tennessee Beef Agribition is no coincidence. "This is the best time of year to pick up whatever you need," says Margie Baker, livestock specialist with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Market Development Division. "The best possible bulls, show calves, purebred breeding stock, donor eggs, cows and heifers are all in the same place, at the same time. You can watch these animals in the ring, and you can hear what breed experts think of them. You can learn what to look for in each breed as it's being showcased and judged. Then you can turn around and buy exactly what you need, because you know exactly what you're getting."

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee Beef Agribition will be held in Murfreesboro, March 7-9, at Middle Tennessee State University's Tennessee Livestock Center. The three-day cattle show and sale event also features one of the largest trade shows in the Southeast, giving participants a look at new products and the direction of the industry. "Agribition is timed to give producers the opportunity to find just the bulls they need, load them up, and turn them right out with their cows," says Baker. "4-Her's can find the show animals they want and have plenty of time to work with them before fair season starts. Donor eggs can be purchased and implanted, or cows and heifers can be added to the herd at a peak breeding season."

Twelve different chartered breeds will be represented and more than 20,000 people are expected to attend Agribition. The breed shows will begin Friday at 9:00 a.m. with sales for each breed immediately following that breed's show. Saturday shows and sales will begin at 8 a.m. and at about 10:30 a.m., respectively. The junior show, one of the event's most popular features, will take place Sunday.

To learn more about Tennessee Beef Agribition, contact Harold Watson at (731) 424-1645. For information about the junior show, contact Kevin Ferguson at (615) 898-7710.

### **Tennessee Livestock Operations**

As a whole, livestock operations in Tennessee declined slightly during 2002. The number of cattle operations in Tennessee during 2002 was 51,000, down 1,000 from 2001. Beef cow operations, at 44,000, were also down 1,000 from the year earlier. Both milk cow and hog operations dropped to record low numbers at 1,400 and 1,300 operations, respectively. Milk cow operations dropped 7 percent, with declines in every category except herds with 100 - 199 head and 500+. Hog operations dropped 13 percent from 2001.

## U.S. Livestock Operations

The number of operations with cattle totaled 1.03 million during 2002, down 2 percent from 2001 and 4 percent below 2000. Beef cow operations in 2002 were down 1 percent from 2001 and 3 percent below 2000. Milk cow operations were 6 percent below last year and 13 percent below two years ago. The number of operations with hogs totaled 75,350 during 2002, down 7 percent from last year.

### Livestock Operations<sup>1</sup> & Rankings: Tennessee and United States, 2001 & 2002

Class	Tennessee			Rank in U.S.		United States		
	2001	2002	2002/2001	2001	2002	2001	2002	2002/2001
	Number		Percent			Number		Percent
All Cattle & Calves	52,000	51,000	98	4	4	1,049,910	1,032,670	98
Beef Cows <sup>2</sup>	45,000	44,000	98	4	4	813,650	805,080	99
Milk Cows	1,500	1,400	93	16	17	97,510	91,990	94
All Hogs & Pigs	1,500	1,300	87	16	18	80,880	75,350	93
Sheep	<sup>3</sup>	<sup>3</sup>				65,120	64,170	99

<sup>1</sup> An operation is any place that has one or more of the species on hand anytime during the year. <sup>2</sup> Included in operations with cattle.

<sup>3</sup> Tennessee does not publish.

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